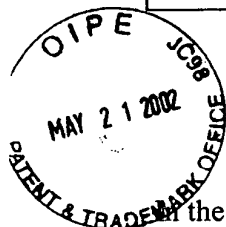


CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 2002.

M. Ayim

Mildred I. Ayim



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of the application of:

Masahiro KIHARA et al.

Serial No.: 10/058,100

Filing Date: January 29, 2002

For: DESALINATION METHOD AND
DESALINATION APPARATUS

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: 1723

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.

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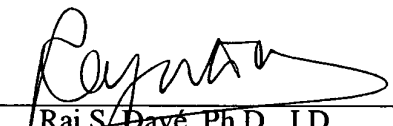
Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 360842008300.

Dated: May 21, 2002

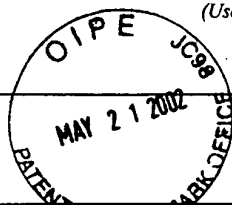
Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number: 360842008300	Application Number: 10/058,100
	Applicant Masahiro KIHARA et al.	
	Filing Date: January 29, 2002	Group Art Unit: 1723
	Mailing Date: May 21, 2002	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1.	9/1974	3,836,457	Gross et al.			
	2.	4/1978	4,083,781	Conger			
	3.	4/1980	4,198,293	Ogawa et al.			
	4.	1/1981	4,243,523	Pelmulder			
	5.	3/1981	4,255,255	Ogawa et al.			
	6.	11/1982	4,361,485	Boonstra			
	7.	3/1986	4,574,049	Pittner			
	8.	3/1990	4,908,133	Wuest et al.			
	9.	10/1990	4,966,708	Oklejas et al.			
	10.	1/1991	4,983,305	Oklejas et al.			
	11.	1/1991	4,988,445	Fulk, Jr.			
	12.	5/1992	5,112,483	Cluff			
	13.	8/1993	5,238,574	Kawashima et al.			
	14.	10/1993	5,252,219	Xu			
	15.	11/1993	5,266,202	Okonogi et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title

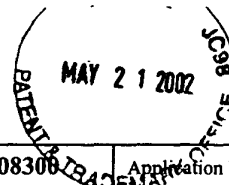
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Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number: 360842008308	Application Number: 10/058,100
	Applicant Masahiro KIHARA et al.	
	Filing Date: January 29, 2002	Group Art Unit: 1723
	Mailing Date: May 21, 2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							YES	NO
	16.	7/1979	JP 54-31088	JP			abs.	
	17.	10/1977	JP 52128888 A	JP			abs.	
	18.	2/1980	JP 55027055	JP			abs.	
	19.	8/1980	JP 55109406	JP			abs.	
	20.	8/1986	JP 61192307	JP			abs.	
	21.	12/1990	EP 0404390	EP				
	22.	1/1992	JP 4004022	JP			abs.	
	23.	2/1995	WO 95/05344	PCT				

OTHER DOCUMENTS*(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title
	24.	Junichiro YOSHIOKA, "High Pressure Pump and Power Recovery Equipment to be Used in Reverse Osmosis Desalination for Seawater", 1980 No. 112, pages 13-16
	25.	Hisashi KIMURA, "Introduction to Membrane Separation Technology", 1985, Vol. 11, No. 1, pages 34-40, 1985
	26.	PB80-186950, U.S. Department of Commerce National Technical Service, 1979, "Reverse Osmosis Technical Manual", pages 7-12 and 7-13
	27.	Argument submitted to the JPO by Adachi, 1998
	28.	Conlon et al., "Membrane softening: the concept and its application to municipal water supply", Desalination, 78 (1990) 157-176
	29.	Parekh, Engineering Feature, Chemical Engineering, 98 (1991) January, No. 1, pp. 70-85

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